



New Bernal Journal

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SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Página 7

Community Action for Public Safety

COMMUNITY LEADERS & BHNC WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A MODEL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSE TO CRIME

By Joseph Smooke

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and a diverse group of community leaders together made a bold move to address public safety issues in Bernal Heights that paid off on January 17 when over 150 people and a stellar panel of City representatives packed BHNC's Dining Room (and seemingly just as many children played in the Conference Room!).

For the past few months, Alemany Public Housing residents, their neighbors, staff and volunteers from BHNC have been working together to discuss the crime at and around Alemany and strategies for working together and with the City to address the crime. While making considerable progress, just a couple of months ago, there appeared a large group of residents from Northwest Bernal on and around Elsie St whose homes had been burglarized. Then, during the holidays, a number of businesses on Cortland Ave were robbed, many at gunpoint. The Bernalsafe listserve started lighting up with a number of other issues. We knew it was time to organize a larger action.

The bold move was to have one large community meeting to coordinate resources and responses in order to address public safety issues in Bernal as a whole. By bringing our community together to recognize all issues, and to have our City representatives respond to every one of them and strategize about how to coordinate response serves to benefit our whole community. A few key Bernal residents played large roles to make this possible: Alemany residents Frank Kellom, Georgia Willette and Bet-



Supervisor Ammiano addresses a packed BHNC on January 17



PHOTOS THIS PAGE: KINGMOUND YOUNG

ty Hudson; Alemany neighbors John Perry, Nancy Ganner, John Perry, Deb McDonald and Randy Ynegas; and the Cortland Merchants Assoc's new President, Darcy Lee. Also instrumental to this effort has been the supportive and responsive action and involvement from Ingleside District Captain Paul Chignell and his Officer Kirk Yin and Sergeant Jim Miller. We have also received tremendous support from Supervisor Ammiano and his staff, Angela Calvillo; Andrea Bruss from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; and Tim Larsen from the Housing Authority

The first step toward making this integration successful was to demonstrate what has already been done successfully to address public safety issues, and to show that these new resources, although de-

signed to address issues in one area of the neighborhood, actually have resulted in greater safety and responsiveness for the whole of Bernal.

Take for example the recent drug dealing, speeding cars and homicides at Alemany, the gunfire and robberies at the homes surrounding Alemany, activated Alemany residents and their neighbors. Working together with BHNC staff and Buck Bagot, a BHNC volunteer with many years of experience abating similar issues, we set regular meetings of Alemany and neighboring leaders, and we established a working group with Ammiano's staff, SFPD, SF Housing Authority, the DA's Office, the Mayor's Offices of Neighborhood Service and Criminal Justice, and others as necessary.

continued on page 19

BHNC MEMBERSHIP TOPS 1,000 IN 2006

By Steve Shapiro

2006 was a very good year for BHNC. We hate to see it go. But we are really looking forward to 2007. We welcomed almost 200 new members last year and close to 100 members re-joined after slipping away for a year. Our grand total for 2006 was 1,012 members. This was an increase of 13% over 2005. We also reached our financial goals for membership, Fiesta and foundation grants.

Our members are our greatest resource. From the financial standpoint, we rely on a stable membership base to fund our programs, policy advocacy and community building activities. We are a successful non profit organization because of our members' generosity and willingness to pitch in as volunteers and speak out to advocate for our community's needs. As we move towards our 30th anniversary in 2008, we need your support more than ever. The national political climate has made life harder for a lot of people in our community. Social service money has been cut drastically as the culture of "blaming poor people for being poor" has been firmly rooted in the government culture in Wash-

ington D.C. and in Sacramento.

We are committed to serving our youth through our gang-prevention, leadership building and employment training programs; our seniors with daily programming for active seniors, support and outreach to our disabled, frail and homebound seniors and services for seniors who are transitioning from being active to needing more support; and we are building affordable and supportive housing for individuals and families who have low incomes and need services close to home.

BHNC has always been more than a provider of essential services. While we're proud of our services, we're equally proud of our commitment and ability to organize and develop leaders among our community members to advocate for and take action on issues important to our clients and members. In 1978, Bernal residents fought developers on Elsie St. who wanted to build 11 market rate houses because this development would have accelerated the escalation of property values that was happening at that time. Neighbors had a vision to be organized and active to preserve and enhance the diversity of this

great community. The development was stopped and new laws were written to allow neighborhoods throughout San Francisco to have a say in determining appropriate development standards.

We organized neighbors to save the Bank of America branch and the Public Library both of which anchored the revitalization of Cortland Ave we all enjoy to-

day. We organized to force the City to take action and provide resources to help youth move away from gang activity. We organized neighbors to address community needs and solicit development ideas along Mission St. between César Chavez and Randall Streets. This three-year process led to the production of a planning docu-

continued on page 16

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**Bernal Heights
Neighborhood Center.**
It is dedicated to providing the
people of Bernal Heights with their
community's news,
ideas, issues,
and events which support the
center's mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic,
cultural, and economic diversity and
well-being of the Bernal Heights com-
munity. We work to build a strong
community for all, with a focus on the
needs of low- and moderate-income
people. We do this by providing ser-
vices to support and increase oppor-
tunities for seniors, youth, and others
most at-risk; by preserving and ex-
panding access to affordable housing;
and by building the neighborhood's
power and capacity to achieve these
goals. We commit to being a provider
of essential services, a builder of com-
munity, and a force for organizing
neighborhood change.

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Please make all computer disk
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2006 was a fantastic year for Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. This was the first year of the David Bernard Memorial Youth Educational Program Fund; we started a new Youth employment program called "New Directions"; we advocated for and won restoration of funding for gang prevention programs; we opened a new Computer Resource Center at BHNC; served over 600 active seniors; distributed 138 supplemental food boxes and 240 brown bags every month; served 140 frail seniors; managed over 12,000 hours of volunteer service for our active and frail senior programs; won the Met Life Foundation national award for Excellence in Supportive Housing for Bernal Gateway; secured Planning approvals for a new supportive housing development that will provide 134 chronically homeless adults with permanent, stable housing; joined the Mission Community Response Network for violence prevention; and so many other accomplishments we would need to print a larger NBJ to fit it all in!

Fittingly, this is the issue in which we thank all of you who provided us with individual support in 2006. Since there are over 1,000 of you, a 13% increase over 2005 (another major accomplishment in 2006), we are truly able to impact the issues that affect those most vulnerable in our community through advocacy and by providing critical services.

We are neither able to provide those services nor be effective with advocacy without your support. As foundations and government agencies continue not to focus their philanthropy in ways that are coordinated with each other and aligned with the needs of our community, it becomes more and more important that each of you who touches the New Bernal Journal or comes to our Annual Community Congress, or enjoys Fiesta on the Hill, or benefits from our work on public safety, pedestrian safety, land use, and so many other issues contribute to that work by becoming a member of BHNC.

In order to be more effective in this work, BHNC has spent the last year planning strategically. This effort has involved staff, Board and other volunteers, and input from many community members, funders, policy makers, etc. We have stripped down every piece of who we are and how we operate to ensure that we will be most effective at empowering those we serve to be effective advocates for the issues that affect them, and to preserve and enhance the diversity of our community which along with our potential to advocate across racial, ethnic and economic lines is what truly makes this a great community.

On May 19, at our Annual Community Congress, we will discuss the results of this planning and how our community will see long term benefits from BHNC's new clarity and strength of purpose. More on that in the April issue of the NBJ!

2007 promises to be the year when many years of hard work will hopefully pay off in growth for BHNC as we slowly approach being able to create multi-services centers in the Excelsior and in the Mission, and as we secure new sites for building new, desperately needed affordable housing for families and adults. We are also applying in the next few months to both the City's Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) for the next 3 years of youth services funding and the next 4 years of senior services funding respectively.

In the meantime, BHNC has experienced some more important staffing changes, and some of them will result in changes to the New Bernal Journal. Allison Lum, our Community Organizing Director for just over a year, has left BHNC to take the Program Director position at Partnership for Immigrant Leadership and Action (PILA), a highly regarded organization working to build organizing capacity statewide. Since we do not have funding to sustain that position at higher than 75% of full time until July, we are forced to hire a temporary replacement. This leaves us without the capacity to support our NBJ editor for the past few issues, Jessika Fruchter, so we thank Jessika for her work and welcome back Edi Berton. Also, Kathy O'Grady, BHNC's Development Associate, has graciously agreed to step in to manage the production of the NBJ.

Distribution will also be changing as the system of distributing to distributors takes a lot of volunteer hours and hours to manage and recruit volunteers which we no longer have the staff to do. So, we will be mailing to members and dropping at the Library and businesses on Cortland and on Mission St. (please see this issue for a list of distribution locations). If you want to keep receiving the NBJ directly, please become a BHNC member, and we will mail the NBJ to you.

Thanks to all of our volunteer NBJ distributors. I look forward to continuing to work with you despite our reduced capacity. And, of course, thanks to all of our advertisers for continu-

ing to support this community resource. Without you, the NBJ would not be possible!

The end of the year was also the end of a wonderful 5+ year tenure for Amy Beinart, our Housing Development Project Manager who became Housing Director in the summer of 2005. Amy led BHNC on so many issues, it would be extremely difficult to have her leave us, but fortunately, she has volunteered to join the Board of Directors, so her expertise will continue with us which is so critical as we work to complete our strategic planning.

We are also fortunate through that transition as Shannon Dodge, a member of our Housing Committee for a few years, then Housing Development Project Manager for two years, has

now been promoted to be Housing Director. Likewise, Jessica Fyles, a native of our community, who joined us as Community Housing Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, then left BHNC to pursue a design internship, returned to BHNC as Housing Program Assistant. Jessica has now been promoted and will be our newest Housing Project Manager joining Bernal resident Kevin Kitchingham as our stellar Project Management team continuing to produce the highest quality affordable housing.

Larry Cruz, formerly a BHNC Board member and for a time the President of the BHNC Board, will be returning to the Board in January. He was also successful in securing a major donation from a good friend to expand the David Bernard Memorial Youth Educational Program Fund which supports the youth receiving services from BHNC's youth programs to continue on to post high school education. For the second year, we will be announcing the Scholarship winners at our Congress on May 19. Larry has worked with our staff to build this into not just financial support but a mentorship program as well to support our youth as they learn and grow, and to create a community of mutual support.

We've already started 2007 in a big way taking on the complex issue of public safety and hosting a meeting with over 150 neighbors and representatives from many City departments, and Supervisor Ammiano. Check out that article and all the others in this issue of the NBJ that again only touches on some of the great work happening in our community, but still contains enough for some good reading! So, as always, enjoy the issue, and happy reading!

—Joseph Smooke
Executive Director, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center



KIRKLAND YOUNG

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Toy Give Away
- 4 Excelsior Land Use Issues
- 5 Senior Computer Class Update
- 6 Big 4 Properties

7 NBJ IN ESPAÑOL

Acción de la Comunidad
para Seguridad Pública

8 Carta del Director Ejecutivo

9 Programa de Computacion para
Mayores de Edad

10 Thank You to our Donors

12 Bernal Heights
Community News & Events

13 Library Events

16 Letter from Tom Ammiano

17 Remembrances

18 Classifieds

BHNC PROGRAMS

Youth Services

BHNC'S 19TH ANNUAL TOY GIVE AWAY

JOSEPH SMOKE

Dear Readers,

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) Youth Services and Community Organizing Departments each holiday season for the past 19 years have given toys away to families in need. A key reason for the success of this event is the youth workers that help with the different aspects of the Toy-Give-Away (TGA). Below are their stories.

Our annual TGA would not have been

toys to low income families and kids. I was also raised in a low income home, and I would have loved to be fortunate like those little kids that came that night and received gifts. I tried to serve the people well so they could have a good time and come back next year. The people were treating the staff with respect because they knew we were doing something nice for the neighborhood. It was an excellent event for the community because it benefited everyone and it showed that we cared for the people in our neighborhood. I would love to help out with other events that take place there again. If the event took place again next year, I would love to help out again and even bring my son to experience the happiness. The snacks were good but I felt that there could have been more to offer but Santa put smiles on everyone's faces also. The gifts were okay but I think it was unfair that some people had bigger toys than others. Overall, I think this event was a good experience because I got to help out and feel good about it."

—Alex Almengor, MYEEP youth worker



JOSEPH SMOKE



JOSEPH SMOKE

possible without our civic partners—The Cortland Merchants Association. Special thanks to Heartfelt and Darcy Lee. We could not have held the toy drive without Darcy's help. Also many thanks to Floor-Craft, Good Life Grocery, and Wild Side West.

I would also like to thank The Walter & Elise Haas Fund, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, who have made the TGA a reality for hundreds of children for the past several years.

—Frederique Clermont,
Youth Services Director.

"I thought the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's Toy Drive was a wonderful idea. It made me feel good to give

the staff members were. Before 3 P.M., there was a long line of kids with their parents waiting outside to get in. Seeing all the people, made me feel really excited that all the hard work was worth it. When the TGA began I felt really good because all the kids were happy taking lots of pictures with Santa Claus and thanking us. This was my first year so I thought it was a great experience. Other youth workers should try it because in the end you feel really proud of yourself. Also you helped make a kid happy for the holidays. I feel really proud of being a part of this event and the Bernal Heights community. I'm planning on participating next year so I want to thank the staff members for giving me a chance to help out."

—Tina Yip, MYEEP youth worker

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BHNC PROGRAMS

Excelsior News

EXCELSIOR BUSINESS ATTRACTION, LAND USE ISSUES

By Cristy Johnston

ENCoRe, the Excelsior’s economic development project is starting off the year with a new partnership with Urban Solutions, to assist with business attraction in very difficult to fill, long-term vacancies. One of those vacancies, at 4760 Mission

The goal of this program is to match entrepreneurs and existing business owners with the right space in neighborhoods that are ready to diversify their business mix and complement existing businesses.

Street, has the potential for centralizing non-profit youth, senior and economic development services and for providing a dynamic community space, something that has been missing in the Excelsior yet is in very high demand. ENCoRe and BHNC staff have been working together to make this happen. The pilot business attraction program marries Urban Solutions’ successful busi-

ness attraction model for Sixth Street with the New Marketplace Initiative (NMI) project, a partnership between the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Mayor’s Office of Workforce and Economic Development (MOEWD). NMI funds ENCoRe and five other neighborhood commercial corridor programs city-wide to strengthen and stabilize business corridors economically while retaining existing businesses and providing merchants with technical and other support.

The goal of this program is to match entrepreneurs and existing business owners with the right space in neighborhoods that are ready to diversify their business mix and complement existing businesses, while at the same time provide an incentive to property owners in the form of free marketing and brokerage services to fill existing vacancies. Additionally, Urban Solutions will be proactive in contacting businesses in categories most desired by these communities, particularly independent businesses in and around SF that are potentially interested in expanding into underserved neighborhoods.

Land use issues heat up

Excelsior Action Group (EAG) members work with the Planning Department and city officials to ensure that developments on Mission Street meet criteria set forth by residents and business owners on the commercial corridor through various community and one on one meetings. Over a year ago, EAG members established the importance of 1) preserving affordable



4441 Mission: This building is slated to be demolished for the project development.

housing, especially family housing, to prevent displacement of the Excelsior’s working class families; 2) preserving commercial retail space rather than giving that space over to parking; 3) ensuring facades and the streetscape are addressed with sensitivity; and 4) that good design and quality materials are required for all developments on Mission Street.

In February of 2005, Sia Tahbazov of Sia Tahbazov Consulting presented a proposal to develop an 18 unit condominium project across three parcels of land. Mr. Tahbazov filed one application for the development of all three parcels. When community members and the city inquired about inclusionary, below market units, Mr. Tahbazov contended that since there were three different owners, the project was three different projects, yet Mr. Tahbazov filed one application. Since then, the Planning Department deemed one of the buildings scheduled for demolition as

historically significant, ensuring the preservation of this building.

Just last month, Mr. Tahbazov resubmitted his proposal, except this time the plan is to build a 6 unit building at 4441 Mission Street, again no inclusionary units are included in the plan. EAG members vote earlier this month to request that the planning department conduct discretionary review of the project, to ensure that the development takes into consideration the proposed impacts and potential mitigations (solutions) to those impacts to the community. A hearing at the Planning Commission has been set for Thursday, February 15th. For more information about this and other land use issues, please contact ENCoRe staff at (415) 585-0110. The Excelsior community will need everyone to work together to ensure that developers consider the community’s needs and concerns as they develop and profit from projects in our communities. ■



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BHNC PROGRAMS

Seniors

SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS UPDATE

By Roland Soriano

The first 8 senior students have just completed their introductory course to computers in BHNC’s new Computer Resource Center. Through the course, these seniors learned the basics such as turning on the computer, using the mouse, word processing, email, internet and more. The feedback from the seniors is impressive.

Senior Program Volunteer, Antoinette



Seniors receiving their Certificates of Completion for the first session of the Senior Computer Class

Meza said, “The class is an advantage. It’s the best thing the Center has contributed to the seniors and the community.” She also mentioned that Richard Reineccius, the class instructor, does a great job. His one-on-one approach to teaching is beneficial.

Holly Park resident, Neil Seippel is not enrolled in the class but comes to the Center to use the Computer Resource Center. “The center is close and convenient and a lot better than using the library”, he says. “You only get an hour with the computers at the library. Here at the Center, you just come in and sign-up. It’s open unlike the

library.” Neil also stated that the internet connection is faster than his dial-up connection at home and that’s another reason why he likes using the CRC computers.

Mary Lewis, one of our seniors who frequent the Senior Program said it’s a good class. She said, “At times, it does get frustrating trying to do the class exercises at home.” When Mary enrolled, she knew little about operating a computer, and had a hard time using the mouse. Now, she is proficient and has opened a free email account that she will be using to communicate with friends and family.

Other seniors in the class with home computers have similar problems that Mary has. That’s one reason the CRC is open to seniors from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM throughout the week so seniors can come practice and ask questions.

The gap between senior citizens and technology is being bridged with small classes such as the one at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It not only opens a whole new world to seniors but empowers them as well. These classes are a first step, maybe a life changing one, but the benefits are immense. Computers have changed the way we communicate, work and play. Now, with new skills, seniors can catch up with the rest of society and create an even better way of life for themselves.

If you are interested or have questions regarding the senior computer classes or would like to be a CRC volunteer, please call Roland at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at (415) 206-2142. ■

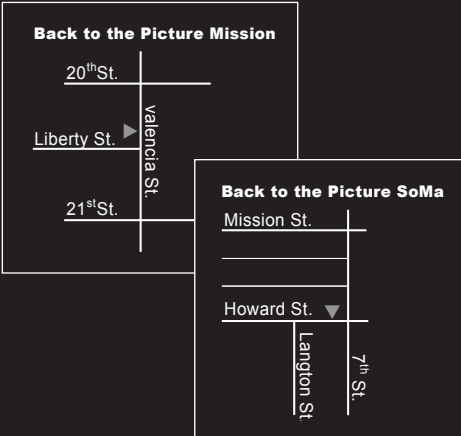


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BHNC PROGRAMS

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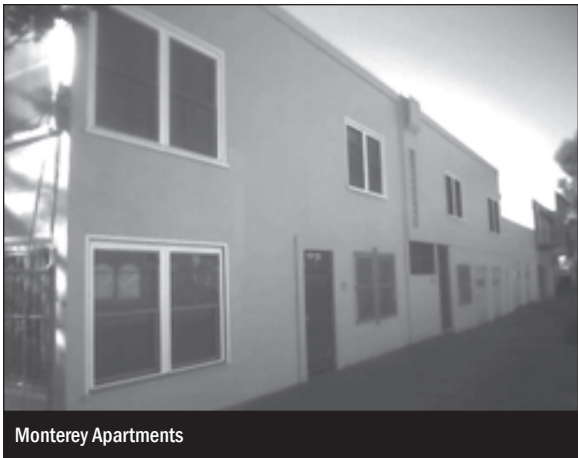
By Kevin Kitchingham

A busy 2006 in the housing program of Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center saw the completed rehabilitation of 12 affordable apartments on four sites in and around Bernal Heights already owned by BHNC’s Housing Affiliate.

These “Big 4” properties provide permanent affordable housing for people with low and very low incomes, including formerly homeless individuals and families as well as those recovering from substance abuse, living with HIV/AIDS, or in need of ongoing mental health services. Three buildings are located in Bernal Heights and one is in the Sunnyside District. For all four, occupancy is targeted toward low and extremely low income earners, some of whom earn less than \$5,000 per year – far below San Francisco’s average income of \$63,800 for a single wage earner.

Resources for the rehabilitation were provided through the San Francisco Mayor’s Office of Housing and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. BHNC collaborated with local small businesses using sustainable (green) building methods to provide cleaner, safer and healthier homes for economically challenged families and individuals.

The improvements that residents of the Big 4 saw to their homes ranged from new roofs, decking and stairs to installation of Energy Star water heaters, refrigerators, insulation and fresh interior and exterior paint. Those improvements benefited from BHNC’s ongoing participation in a national program promoting sustainable building methods: all appliances were Energy Star rated, no volatile organic compounds (VOC’s) were used in any of the paints or sealants, double paned windows replaced those with single panes -- at each turn the BHNC Housing team sought out renewable, energy-saving and more durable products.



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: KEVIN KITCHINGHAM

BHNC is proud to provide high quality products and building standards to the residents of its affordable housing developments in and around Bernal Heights. Through its partnerships with City agencies and local small businesses, it will continue to ensure quality sustainable housing development with an eye to the future. Look for more quality affordable housing endeavors from this development team in 2007 and beyond.



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New Bernal Journal en Español

Acción de la Comunidad para Seguridad Pública

Por Joseph Smooke

El Centro Vecindario de Bernal Heights y un grupo diverso de líderes de la comunidad tomaron juntos una acción audaz de dirigir los asuntos públicos de seguridad en Bernal Heights que sirvió el 17 de enero cuando más de 150 personas y una comisión estelar de representantes de la ciudad llenaron el comedor de BHNC (y aparentemente esa cantidad de niños jugaron en la Sala de reuniones también!).

En los pocos meses pasados, residentes de la Vivienda Pública de Alemany, sus vecinos, voluntarios y personal de BHNC, han estado trabajando juntos para discutir el crimen en y alrededor de Alemany, así como estrategias para trabajar juntos y con la Ciudad para dirigir el crimen. Al hacer un progreso considerable, apenas hace un par de meses, allí apareció un grupo grande de residentes del noroeste de Bernal en y alrededor de la calle Elsie, cuyos hogares habían sido forzados. Entonces, durante las vacaciones, varios negocios en la avenida de Cortland fueron robados, muchos a punta de pistola. El listserve de BernalSafe empezó a llenarse de una variedad de otros asuntos. Era tiempo de organizar una acción más grande.

La acción asertiva fue de tener una reunión grande de la comunidad para coordinar los recursos y las respuestas para dirigir los asuntos públicos de la seguridad en todo Bernal. Al traer a toda nuestra comunidad para que reconozcan juntos todos los asuntos, y para que nuestros representantes de la Ciudad respondan a cada uno de ellos y strategien sobre cómo coordinar respuestas, lo cual sirve para beneficiar a nuestra comunidad entera. Unos pocos residentes claves de Bernal jugaron papeles grandes para hacer esto posible: Los residentes de Alemany Franco Kellom, Georgia Willette y Betty Hudson; vecinos de Alemany John Perry, Nancy Ganner, Deb McDonald y Randy Ynegas; y el nuevo presidente de la Asociación de Mercaderes de Cortland, Darcy Lee. También instrumental para este esfuerzo ha sido el apoyo y la participación y sensibles del Capitán del Distrito de Ingleside Paul Chignell y su Oficial Iglesia Yin y de Molinero de Sargento Jim. Hemos recibido también apoyo tremendo del Supervisor Ammiano y su personal, Angela Calvillo; Andrea Bruss de la Oficina de Alcalde de Servicios Vecindarios; y Tim Larsen del Instituto de la vivienda

El primer paso hacia hacer esta integración exitosa fue de demostrar lo que ya ha sido hecho para dirigir exitosamente los asuntos públicos de la seguridad, y para mos-

trar que estos nuevos recursos, aunque diseñara para dirigir los asuntos en una área del vecindario, han tenido como resultado realmente la seguridad y la receptividad más grande para todo Bernal.

Tome por ejemplo la droga reciente que trata, apresurando coches y homicidios en Alemany, el disparo de fusil y los robos en los hogares que rodean Alemany, residentes activados de Alemany y sus vecinos. Trabajando juntos con el personal de BHNC y Buck Bagot, un voluntario de BHNC con muchos años de disminuir de experiencia los asuntos semejantes, nosotros reuniones regulares fijas de Alemany y líderes vecinos, y nosotros establecimos un grupo de trabajo con el personal de Ammiano, SFPD, Instituto de la vivienda de SF, la Oficina de DA, las Oficinas de Alcalde de Servicios de Vecindario y Justicia Criminal, y de los otros como sea necesario. Mientras que Supervisor Ammiano y residentes de Alemany ya en había estado asegurando \$300.000 para programas de prevención de violencia en Alemany (inclusive la administración del caso, la instrucción del trabajo, el conocimiento de la droga y la conexión al tratamiento, etc.), este esfuerzo resultó primero en el compromiso de \$90.000 en aumentar la presencia de policía en Alemany para por lo menos 3 meses. ¡Desde que los programas de la prevención rastrearán a residentes vulnerables en programas productivos y sostenedores, y la presencia aumentada de policía aumentará la receptividad de policía aún a llamadas de Bernal Alemany exterior, esto es un ejemplo que aturde de líderes de envoltura de público que trabaja juntos con sus vecinos para aumentar la seguridad pública para nuestra comunidad entera!

El formato de la reunión fue el 17 de enero, por lo tanto, el conjunto arriba como un foro para líderes de comunidad de cada área del asunto, Josh Kaminker de Elsie San, Marc Lindsell y Sotavento de Darcy de la Asociación de Mercaderes de Cortland, y de Deb McDonald, Señal de Tanya y Sidra de pera de John del área de Alemany, para presentar lo que los asuntos han sido, qué éxitos han sucedido hasta ahora, y lo que es dejado todavía ser hecho.

El supervisor Ammiano y el Capitán de Ingleside Paul Chignell empezaron las respuestas de entrepaño. El entrepaño consistió también en Comandante Steven Tacchini, Angela Calvillo (el personal de Ammiano), Adán Gubser (DPT), Linda Klee (la Oficina de Fiscal del distrito), Tim Larsen (Instituto de la vivienda de SF), Andrea Bruss (la Oficina de Alcalde de Servicios de Vecindario), y Lenore Anderson (la Oficina de Alcalde de la Justicia Crimi-

nal). Mike Farrah, Newsom de Alcalde Consejero Mayor de Política, y un nuevo residente de Bernal, fue presente en la multitud. Cada uno de los miembros del entrepaño han estado trabajando duramente a favor de nuestra comunidad y su trabajo ha tenido como resultado mucho de la respuesta positiva y sustantiva a los asuntos en el foco de la reunión. Después del entrepaño respondido a las presentaciones, nosotros facilitamos una sesión de la pregunta y la respuesta entre la audiencia y el entrepaño.

Los asuntos levantaron que se adelanta hacia la acción adicional son lo siguiente:

- 1 El Distrito de la Policía de Ingleside es el Distrito más grande en la Ciudad, pero es crónicamente falta de personal. El Alcalde y la Tabla de Supervisores necesitan sostener más Oficiales para el Distrito de Ingleside.
- 2 Allí necesidades de ser la intervenciones más positivas con la juventud en Alemany y esos frecuentando la frente de la Biblioteca de Bernal para rastrearlos en programas y oportunidades constructivos. BHNC trabajará con la oficina de Ammiano para identificar la financiación para agregar la capacidad en esta área, y continuar trabajar con líderes de Alemany para coordinar los servicios para Alemany.
- 3 El Centro de Bernal Rec necesita formar parte de la solución. Actualmente, no proporciona programar para la juventud en peligro. BHNC trabajará con las oficinas de Alcalde y Ammiano para identificar la financiación y para coordinar los servicios para suceder en el Centro de Rec.
- 4 La actividad criminal que procede de 263 Andover San debe ser disminuido. SFPD y la Oficina del Abogado de la Ciudad coordinarán para dirigir este asunto.
- 5 Capitán Chignell ha ordenado la presencia que regular de policía en Cortland Avda por la tarde horas por a 2am en cual momento todos negocios son cerrados. Esto ha hecho un impacto tremendo a reducir los robos armados. Había un pedido de hacer esta permanente de la presencia, y no tenerlo reduce a las policías del golpe en la Misión San sur de Cesar Chavez.
- 6 Marca la presencia aumentada de policía en la permanente de Alemany y hace disponible una Seguridad y los Servicios Español donde Oficiales de Ingleside pueden tener un escritorio y el teléfono.



Tanya Beck contando se cuento al gentío

- 7 Tienen DPT instala un stop a la cabeza de Ellsworth San para coches de apresurar sobre la cresta de la colina, o proponer una alternativa que es aceptable a los residentes de Alemany y Calles de Ellsworth y a los Oficiales de Ingleside que ha solicitado un stop en esta ubicación.

Cuando esta lista de demandas indica, la seguridad pública es un asunto complejo que implica los servicios de suma importancia del humano para prevenir la actividad criminal, y por supuesto aplicación de la ley cuando el crimen ocurre.

Cuando voluntario de BHNC, Buck Bagot, los estados, “BHNC está acerca de autorizar los ingresos bajos y a residentes minoritarios, y acerca de todas las gente que viven en Alturas de Bernal. La organización no está acerca de encarcelar y desahucio. Ha trabajado para dirigir durante 30 años las causas de raíz de la pobreza, el racismo, la tendencia del género, la preferencia y la clase sexuales influencian. Continuará hacer así. Ponga simplemente, BHNC cree que ES discriminatorio para residentes de envoltura de público para vivir en el temor, y recibir un nivel más bajo de custodiar y el servicio criminal de la justicia que residentes más opulentos. Cree también que ningún residente de Bernal debe vivir atemorizado por el crimen violento, los impresionando y sus familias. Está con de estas metas en la mente—terminando la violencia y dirigir las causas de raíz de esa violencia—que ha iniciado estos esfuerzos de la disminución de la violencia”.

Para más información, por favor llamar a Joseph Smooke de BHNC al 206,2140, ext 157, o visita el sitio web: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BernalSafe>. ■



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NBJ en Español

Carta del Director Ejecutivo

El 2006 fue un año fantastico para el Centro de la Vecindad de Bernal Heights. Este fue el primer año del Fondo para el Programa de Educación para Jovenes Conmemorativo de David Bernard; comenzamos un nuevo programa de empleo para jovenes llamado “Nuevas Direcciones;” nosotros abogamos y ganamos restauración de financiación para programas de prevención de cuadrilla; abrimos un nuevo Centro de Recursos para Computacion en BHNC; sirviendo más de 600 mayores de edad activos; distribuyendo 138 cajas de alimento y 240 bolsas cafes cada mes; sirviendo 140 mayores de edad frágiles; más de 12,000 horas de servicio de voluntario para nuestros programas mayores activos y frágiles; ganó el premio nacional por Excelencia en Viviendas de Apoyo de Bernal; Gateway de la Fundación Met Life; aseguró las aprobaciones de Planificación para una nueva urbanización de apoyo que proveerá a 134 adultos crónicamente sin hogar del alojamiento permanente, estable; se unieron a la Red de Respuesta de la Comunidad de la Misión para la prevención de violencia; ¡y tantos otros logros que tendríamos que imprimir un NBJ más grande para encajar todo!

Convenientemente, esta es la cuestión en la cual agradecemos a todos ustedes que nos dieron apoyo individual en 2006. Ya que hay más de 1,000 de ustedes, un aumento del 13 % durante 2005 (otro logro principal en 2006), somos realmente capaces de afectar las cuestiones que afectan a aquellos más vulnerables en nuestra comunidad mediante la defensa y proporcionando servicios críticos.

No somos, ni capaces de proporcionar aquellos servicios, ni ser eficaces con la de-

fensa sin su apoyo. Cuando las fundaciones y las agencias del gobierno no siguen enfocando su filantropía de maneras que son coordinados el uno con el otro y alineados con las necesidades de nuestra comunidad, se hace cada vez más importante que cada uno de ustedes que lee el Diario de Nuevo Bernal o viene a nuestro Congreso de Comunidad Anual, o disfruta de la Fiesta en la Colina, o se beneficia de nuestro trabajo en seguridad pública, en seguridad de peatones, en uso de tierra, y tantos otras cuestiones que reciben apoyo al ser miembro de BHNC.

A fin de ser más eficaz con este trabajo, BHNC ha gastado el año pasado planeando estratégicamente. Este esfuerzo ha involucrado personal, la Comision y otros voluntarios, y ha introducido a muchos miembros de la comunidad, fundadores, políticos, etc. Hemos llegado al fondo de a quién somos y como funcionamos para asegurar que seremos más eficaces en fortalecer a aquellos que servimos, y asi ser abogados eficaces para las cuestiones que los afectan, y conservar y realzar la diversidad de nuestra comunidad que junto con nuestro potencial para abogar a través de líneas raciales, étnicas y económicas es lo que realmente hace de esta una gran comunidad.

El 19 de mayo, en nuestro Congreso de Comunidad Anual, hablaremos de los resultados de esta planificación y como nuestra comunidad verá ventajas a largo plazo de la nueva claridad del BHNC y de la fortaleza de nuestro objetivo. ¡Más de esto en la emision de abril del NBJ!

2007 promete ser el año cuando muchos años de trabajo duro darán fruto con la espe-

ranza de crecimiento para BHNC, cuando nos acercamos mas y mas a ser capaces de crear centros de multiservicios en el Excelsior y en la Misión, y cuando aseguramos nuevos sitios para construir nuevos alojamientos económicos que muchas familias y adultos necesitan desesperadamente. También nos estamos aplicando en los próximos pocos meses tanto al Departamento de la Ciudad de Niños, como a Familias y Jovenes (DCYF) y el Departamento de Servicios de Envejecimiento y Adultos (DAAS) durante los próximos 3 años de financiación de servicios juveniles y los próximos 4 años de financiación de servicios para mayores de edad respectivamente.

Mientras tanto, El BHNC ha experimentado algunos cambios más importantes de personal, y eso causara cambios en el diario de Nuevo Bernal. Allison Lum, nuestra Comunidad que Organiza al Director durante sólo más de un año, ha dejado BHNC para tomar la posición de Director de Programas en la Sociedad para Mando y Accion Inmigrante (PILA), una organización muy considerada que trabaja para construir la capacidad de organización por todo el estado. Ya que no tenemos la financiación para sostener aquella posición mas que el 75 % del tiempo hasta julio, somos forzados a ha emplear un reemplazo temporal. Esto nos deja sin la capacidad para apoyar a nuestra editora del NBJ por las ultimas emisiones, Jessika Fruchter, entonces agradecemos a Jessika por su trabajo y damos la bienvenida otra vez a Edi Berton. También, Kathy O’Grady, el Socia del Desarrollo del BHNC, ha consentido manejar la producción del NBJ.

La distribución también cambiará cuando el sistema de distribución a distribuidores tome muchas horas de voluntario para organizar y reclutar a voluntarios que ya no tenemos el personal para hacer eso eficazmente. De este modo, enviaremos correo a miembros e iremos a la Biblioteca y negocios en la avenida Cortland y la calle Misión. (por favor ver esta emision para una lista de lugaresmde distribución). Si usted quiere seguir recibiendo el NBJ directamente, por favor hágase un miembro BHNC, y le enviaremos el NBJ por correo.

Gracias a todo nuestro distribuidores voluntarios de NBJ. Dan ganas de seguir trabajando con ustedes a pesar de nuestra reduccion en capacidad. Y, por supuesto, gracias a todos nuestros anunciantes por seguir apoyando este recurso de comunidad. ¡Sin usted, el NBJ no sería posible!

El fin de año fue también el final de una tenencia 5 anos maravillosos para Amy Bertain, nuestro Gerente del Proyecto de Urbanización que se hizo el Director de Alojamiento en el verano 2005. Amy condujo BHNC en tantos asuntos, que sería muy difícil que ella

Convenientemente, esta es la cuestión en la cual agradecemos a todos ustedes que nos dieron apoyo individual en 2006. Ya que hay más de 1,000 de ustedes, somos realmente capaces de afectar las cuestiones que afectan a aquellos más vulnerables en nuestra comunidad.


nos abandonara, pero por suerte, ella se ha ofrecido para afiliarse a la Junta directiva, entonces su experiencia va a segir con nosotros, lo cual es tan crítico para completar nuestra planificación estratégica.

Somos también afortunados por la transición de Shannon Dodge, un miembro de nuestro Comité de Alojamiento durante unos años, despues Gerente del Proyecto de Urbanización durante dos años, y ahora promovida como Directora de Vivienda. Igualmente, Jessica Fyles, una nativa de nuestra comunidad, que se afilió a nosotros como Coordinadora de Rehabilitación de Viviendas de la Comunidad, dejo BHNC para completar una pasantia de diseño, volvió a BHNC como Ayudante del Programa de Vivienda. Jessica ha sido promovida y ahora será nuestra Gerente del Proyecto de Vivienda, afiliada con el residente de Bernal Kevin Kitchingham como nuestro equipo de Dirección de Proyecto estelar que sigue produciendo vivienda económico de la calidad más alta.

Larry Cruz, antes un miembro de la Comision de BHNC y durante un tiempo el presidente de la Comision de BHNC, volverá a la Comision en enero. Él tambien tuvo exito al asegurar una donación principal de un amigo bueno para ampliar al Fondo para el Programa de Educacion para Jovenes Conmemorativo de David Bernard, que apoya los servicios de recepción de juventud de los programas juveniles del BHNC para seguir con la educación de la escuela secundaria. Para el segundo año, anunciaremos a los ganadores de Beca en nuestro Congreso el 19 de mayo. Larry ha trabajado con nuestro personal para que esto no sólo sea un programa de Beca, pero un programa de mentores también para apoyar a nuestra juventud mediante aprenden y crecen, y crear una comunidad de apoyo mutuo.

Hemos comenzado ya el 2007 de una manera grande, tomando la cuestión compleja de la seguridad pública y organizando una reunión con más de 150 vecinos y representantes de muchos departamentos de Ciudad, y Supervisor Ammiano. ¡Vean el artículo y todo los demás en esta emision del NBJ que otra vez sólo menciona superficialmente todo el gran trabajo que pasa en nuestra comunidad, pero contiene lo suficiente para una buena lectura! ¡De este modo, como siempre, disfrute de la cuestión, y de la feliz lectura!

—Joseph Smooke, Executive Director, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center



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Programa de Computación para Mayores de Edad

Por Roland Soriano

Los primeros 8 estudiantes mayores de edad acaban de completar su curso introductorio de computacion en el nuevo Centro de Recursos de Computacion del BHNC. En el curso, estos estudiantes mayores de edad aprendieron lo basico de computacion, como encender la computadora, como usar el ratón, el procesamiento de textos, como usar el correo electrónico, Internet y más. La reacción de los mayores es impresionante.

Voluntaria del Programa para Mayores de Edad, Antoinette Meza dijo, “la clase es una ventaja. Esto es la mejor cosa que el Centro ha contribuido con los mayores de edad y la comunidad.” Ella también mencionó que Richard Reineccius, el instructor de la clase, hace un gran trabajo. Su tecnica de enseñanza uno a uno es muy beneficioso.

Residente de Parque de acebo, Neil Seippel no esta matriculado en la clase, pero viene al Centro para usar el Centro de Recurso de Computacion. “El centro es cercano y conveniente, y es mucho mejor que la de la biblioteca”, dijo él. “Usted sólo consigue una hora con las computadoras de la biblioteca. Aquí en el Centro, usted sólo entra y firma. Está abierto a diferencia de la biblioteca.” Neil también declaró que la connnection de Internet es más rápida que su connecion de internet por telefono en casa, siendo otra razón por qué le gusta usar las computadoras CRC.

Mary Lewis, uno de nuestros mayores de edad que frecuentan el Programa de Mayores

de Edad, dijo que es una clase muy buena. Ella dijo, “a veces, es realmente frustrante tratar de hacer los ejercicios de clase en casa.” Cuando Mary se matriculó, ella sabía poco sobre como funcionan las computadoras, y le era problematico usar el ratón. Ahora, ella es muy competente y ha abierto su propio correo electrónico gratis para comunicarse con amigos y familia.

Otros mayores en la clase con computadoras personales tienen problemas similares a los de Mary. Esta es una razón por la cual el CRC está abierto a mayores de edad de 10:00 de la mañana a 2:30 de la tarde. toda la semana entonces los mayores de edad pueden venir a practicar y hacer preguntas.

El desequilibrio entre ancianos y la tecnología está siendo balanceado con pequeñas clases como la del Centro de Vecindad de Bernal Heights. Esto no sólo les abre un mundo entero, pero los fortalece también. Estas clases son un primer paso, tal vez una que cambie vidas, pero las ventajas son inmensas. Las computadoras han cambiado el modo en que nos comunicamos, trabajamos y jugamos. Ahora, con nuevas habilidades, los mayores pueden alcanzar al resto de la sociedad y crear un mejor estilo de vida para ellos mismos.

Si usted está interesado o tienen preguntas en cuanto a las clases de computacion para mayores de edad o gustaría ser un voluntario de CRC, por favor llame a Roland en el Centro de Vecindad de Bernal Heights al (415) 206-2142. ■

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El Centro Vecindario de Bernal Heights agradece a todos los patrocinadores que apoyaron nuestro trabajo en 2006.

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Thanks also to everyone who has joined already in 2007. Your early membership is very much appreciated.
Las gracias tambien a cada uno que se ha unido en 2007. Su ingreso temprano es muy apreciado.
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Por favor avisene a Kathy O'Grady de BHNC al 206-2140 ext. 148, si nos equivocamos en los nombres o si debemos hacer algunas correcciones.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

MUSIC ON THE HILL UPCOMING CONCERT

By Doug Holloway

Since its inception in 1998, “Music on the Hill” continues to deliver the goods. Case in point was last November’s Trio della Rosa concert. MOTH fans couldn’t decide which was more exciting the performers or the programming, but many said it was the best “Music on the Hill” concert they had ever attended.

Now it’s very likely that those same folks had not come to hear famed cellist, Joan Jeanrenaud in her many stellar performances or attended MOTH concerts by the wonderful S.F. Guitar Quartet, or S.F. Mandolin Quartet. But regardless, last November’s Trio della Rosa’s performance of music by Turina, Villa Lobos, Ginestera, and Piazzola was delivered with a flair and gypsy passion that was well worth the price of admission.

So don’t be left out in the cold...forget those old excuses. If you live in the ‘hood,

it’s just a jaunt down, or up the hill to Cortland and St. Kevin’s Church. The beauty is you don’t have to drive, and if need be, the 24 Divisidero bus stops in front of the church.

Our next concert is coming up Sunday February 25, with the Eos Ensemble. Members of the S.F. Opera and Ballet Orchestra perform Mozart’s Oboe Quartet, Benjamin Britten’s Phantasy Quartet for Oboe and String Trio and Dohnanyi’s Serendade for String Trio. Craig Reiss, violin, Paul Ehrlich, viola, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, and Laura Griffiths, oboe.

Tickets are \$12/\$7. For advanced tickets contact us at mothmuse2@yahoo.com or call 820-1429. Tickets are also sold at the door. All concerts start at 7:00 P.M. (doors open at 6:30) St. Kevin’s Church 704 Cortland Ave, Bernal Hts. Check out our website at musiconthehill.org ■



Eos Ensemble


COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE OLD TIMEY MUSIC & POTLUCK GET TOGETHER

WHERE: at BHNC
WHEN: Sunday, March 18th
4 to 7pm

Local piano legend **Erik Walker** and guitarist **Joe Cunningham** (“Two Tall Drinks”) will be hosting a MUSIC GET-TOGETHER and Potluck on a lazy, lively Sunday afternoon down at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, playing Folk / Rags / New Orleans / Country / Honky Tonk with a lot of the amazing musicians that live right here in Bernal sitting in. We play it all with a lot of spirit and fun, and the old songs come alive like they really was made up just yesterday, and are still warm, and would be good with jam and butter.


So we’ll need some eats—it’s a potluck so we all chip in:
Bring a dish or drinks or a donation to BHNC (that way somebody will clean up after us) and make yourself comfortable for an afternoon of talking, eating, music making and general good fun. If you don’t have anything you can bring, just bring yourself, and have a good time. But keep in mind, if you don’t bring something, the eats might be gone before you get there!
So, ya comin’, or goin’?
This is a family friendly event. We’ve all had kids so the noise don’t bother us no more. Call Erik at 271-5014 for more info. ■

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Buick Art Car

SOAP BOX LECTURE SERIES

Starting in February 2007, Bernal Bubbles is initiating a series of free lectures on the first Saturday of every month at 10pm in the laundromat (located at 397 Cortland Ave (@Bennington) in the Bernal Heights district of San Francisco.

Adding to the rich cultural community on the hill, these short 1/2 hour lectures by various artists, art professionals and cultural critics, living in or around Bernal Heights, will be on a range of subjects of artistic, cultural, political, and social issues of significance to the community.

Upcoming speakers will include:

- JoAnne Northrup**, senior curator San Jose Museum of Art
- Tiffany Shlain**, filmmaker and founder of the Webby Awards
- Glen Helfand**, art writer
- Ken Goldberg**, artist and UC Berkeley professor
- Annie Sprinkle**, post porn feminist
- Alison Bing**, art writer
- Julia Page**, media artist
- Josh Greene**, conceptual artist
- Melinda Stone**, filmmaker
- Shelia Ghidini**, public artist
- Renee Gertler**, sculptor
- Bernie Lubell**, sculptor
- Philo Northrup**, Art Car maker, founder Art Car Fest
- Susanne Cockrell** and **Ted Purves**, CCA professors, community based artists

After each lecture, guests are invited to join us up the street at 301 Bocana Gallery. The Gallery is run by artist Teresa O’Connor, and she has graciously offered her space as a place for refreshments and to give lecture participants the opportunity to extend the conversation.

Lectures in February and March:

- FEBRUARY 3**
JoAnne Northrup, senior curator, San Jose Museum of Art and **Philo Northrup**, Founder Art Car Fest: “Art Cars and Burning Man: Art Outside The Institution”
- MARCH 3 • 10pm**
Glen Helfand, critic and curator
“Tiny Bubbles: The Floating, The Effervescent, and The Popped in Some Contemporary Art”
- Call Ray Beldner for more information: 415.297.2319 ■



Daisy Singer Art Car

BERNAL HEIGHTS OUTDOOR CINEMA PLANS FOR 2007 SEASON OF SHOWCASING NEIGHBORHOOD FILMMAKERS FROM AROUND THE HILL

Organizers of Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema have announced initial plans for the fourth annual season of neighborhood film screenings staged in local parks and open spaces around the Hill. Screenings will be scheduled at the end of summer in late August and early September with specific dates and sites to be confirmed.

The official “Call for Entries” period begins March 1 and will continue through June 1. This year, as in past seasons, Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema seeks films and videos that have significant contributions by neighborhood residents. This prerequisite includes key production roles of producer, director, writer, cinematographer, editor as well as connections in the area of promotion and distribution. Additionally, the line-up will also feature films that “speak to the political, social and artistic sentiment” of the neighborhood, enabling the audience to see films created by filmmakers with no neighborhood ties but share the special mindset of Bernal Heights.

Organizers are currently looking for candidates for this year’s Selection Committee. Interested individuals are asked to e-mail inquiries to info@bhoutdoorcine.org or visit the website www.bhoutdoorcine.org ■

Call for Entries: March 1 - June 1

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY?

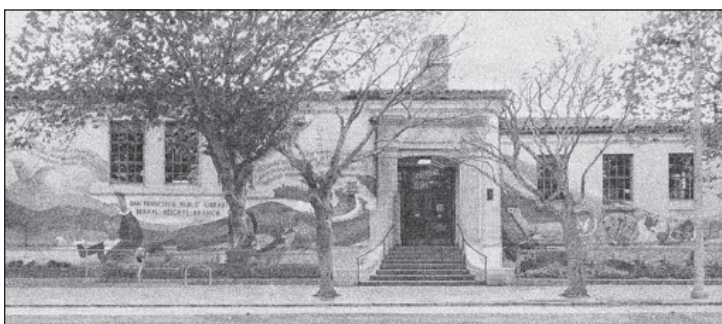
LIBRARY RENOVATION 2007

The Bernal Heights Branch Library project is tentatively scheduled to begin this summer. We intend to continue as many services as possible during closure. For example, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center has offered to host Lapsit Storytime on Wednesday mornings and the generous folks at Red Hill Books will host our weekly Preschool Storytimes. We are still searching for temporary sites for the Book Club, Older Writers Laboratory, Origami Club and Sophie's Crafts. The Bookmobile will be part of our interim service too, bringing a variety of materials and a colorful, new presence to the neighborhood. Their 'bus stop' will likely be alongside J. Serra School at Holly Park.

Highlights of the renovation include a new expanded children's room on the lower level with access to the playground and a designated teen area on the main floor. A meeting room with after hours access, an elevator, ramp and new restrooms will make the branch fully accessible to all. The original architectural details and historic features will be respected and restored.

The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are raising funds for the furniture, fixtures, and equipment in the refurbished branch. We've had two positive and productive campaign meetings so far. If you'd like to get involved, contact Claire Kells at 626-7512, x107.

Check our website for more information <http://sfpl.org/news/blip/bernalheightssurvey.htm>.



KIMMEL/NOYD YOUNG

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

SF SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL presents "A Comedy of Errors", Saturday, February 10th, 3 p.m. Grade school age and up.

THE AMOROUS ADVENTURES OF INSECTS, Tuesday, February 13th, 7 p.m. Leslie Saul, from the Center of Ecosystem Survival, explores the mating habits of the most diverse animal group.

SAMBA SAMBA, Wednesday, February 21st, 4 p.m. Featuring multicultural music with a Caribbean beat. All ages.

HUNGRY OWL PROJECT, Saturday, March 10th, 2 p.m. Meet Alex Godbe and Wookie the Wildlife Ambassador to learn about barn owls and rodent control.

THE FRATELLO MARIONETTES present, "Vaudeville Follies," Wednesday, March 28th, 4 p.m. All ages.

DON'T FORGET:

Infant Toddler Lapsit: Storytime for infants and toddlers, ages 0-3, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., February 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Preschool Storytime: ages 3-5, Thursdays, 11 a.m. February 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Origami Club, Saturdays, February 3rd and March 3rd, 2:00 p.m.; All skill levels welcome. Children under 8 with parents. Bring any kind of paper if you can.

Crafts With Sophie, Wednesdays, February 14th and March 14th, 4 p.m. for children of all ages.

BOOK CLUB WILL MEET TO DISCUSS:

MEMORIES OF MY MELANCHOLY WHORES by Gabriel García Márquez, Thursday, February 22nd, 4 p.m.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens, Thursday, March 29th, 4 p.m.

OWL: Older Writers Laboratory, meets every Thursday from 1:30-3:30 to write and share poetry with Brent Armendinger. Newcomers welcome.

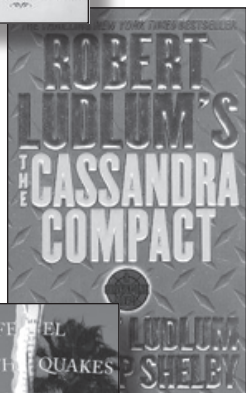
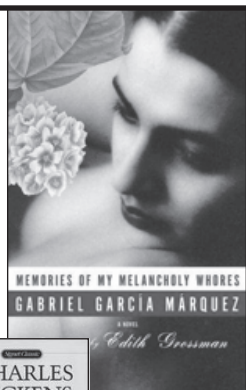
STAFF RECOMMENDS:

Hannah: CASSANDRA COMPACT by Robert Ludlum.

Lisa: I FEEL EARTHQUAKES MORE OFTEN THAN THEY HAPPEN by Amy Wilentz and WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE by Julie Otsuka.

Teo: SANGRE AZTECA by Simon Levack.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Gabriel Sharing Fund. The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call 355-2810 for more information. ■



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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Mission Trail Mural Walks

Cultural and Historic Walking Tours of the Mission's Murals along Mission St. and the 24th St. corridor

EVENT: Walking Tour of the Murals
DATE: Each Saturday and Sunday in January, February, and March
TIME: 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM
WHERE: Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th St.,
(24th and Harrison) San Francisco, CA
COST: \$12.00

Saturday & Sunday, 1:30 PM

Meet at Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center located at 2981 24th St. at Harrison. Tour includes a brief slide presentation on the history and process of mural art and tour of over 70 murals within a 6 block walk.
General \$12 • College w/ ID \$8 • Seniors & Youth ages 12-17 \$5 • Under 12 \$2

Saturday, 11:00 AM

Meet at 24th St. BART Station Plaza in Café Venice (3325 24th St.)

See over 60 Murals in a 10 block walk.

General \$10 • College w/ ID \$8 • Seniors & Youth ages 12-17 \$5 • Under 12 \$2

Sunday, 11:00 AM

Meet at Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center located at 2981 24th St. This tour highlights the murals of Precita Park and includes 50 murals in an 8 block walk.
General \$10 • College w/ ID \$8 • Seniors & Youth ages 12-17 \$5 • Under 12 \$2

Precita Eyes Mural Arts & Visitors Center, 2981 24th Street, San Francisco.
For more information please contact Patricia Rose, Mural Tour Coordinator:
(415) 285-2287 or tours@precitaeyes.org ■

Precita Eyes Community Mural Painting Workshop

DATE: February 22 - March 25, Design & planning (4) Thursday nights beginning
Feb. 22 - March 15, Painting (2) Weekends, Sat. & Sun., March 17, 18, 24, & 25
TIME: Every Thursday 7:00pm - 9:30pm, then on weekends 10am - 5pm
WHERE: 2981 24th Street, (Between Harrison and Alabama)
COST: \$350 Prepaid registration for non-members - \$325 for members

No prior art experience is necessary; all levels are welcome. Space is limited to 20 participants, please register early

Participants learn the community mural art process though a 6-week, intensive, hands-on project at 2700 Bryant Street. (& 25th Street) Master muralist Susan Cervantes will lead participants in the creation of a collaborative community mural. Learn how to develop a theme, create a scale drawing, enlarge design and paint the final community mural. Seize this unique opportunity to become a part of San Francisco mural history.

For more information please call or stop by Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th St. 415/ 285-2287. Email education@precitaeyes.org. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD FREE DAYS AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

San Francisco residents can once again enjoy free admission days to the California Academy of Sciences, running from February 16 through April 1, 2007. Invited by neighborhood, according to ZIP codes, thousands of San Francisco residents have visited the Academy during Neighborhood Free Days for the past eight years.

Each visiting adult must prove San Francisco residency by showing a driver's license, a utility bill or other form of valid ID. Only residents from the ZIP codes invited on the designated dates will be admitted free of charge. The program covers Friday, Saturday or Sunday visitation.

Information about Neighborhood Free Days is available at www.calacademy.org and at (415) 321-8000.

Neighborhood	Zip Code Area	FREE DAYS
Excelsior, Ingleside, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Visitacion Valley	94112, 94134, 94124	February 23, 23 & 25
Mission, Bernal Heights	94110	March 2, 3 & 4

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\$2.39

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\$1.99

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African drummers, African American storytellers, authors, artists and others will participate in a number of programs at the San Francisco Public Library in celebra- tion of Black History Month. Adult events will include a reading by California Poet Laureate Al Young, a spoken word festival and a discussion on jazz. Children’s events will feature stories, rhymes and rhythms presented by accomplished storytellers and musicians.

Exhibition:

Following the North Star: African American Quilts

Ten contemporary handmade quilts in the tradition of Underground Railroad quilts that show how certain designs and colors gave coded messages to slaves running north to freedom. A log cabin pattern, for example, signified a “safe house.” The quilts were made by City College Quilters, a multi-ethnic group of women enrolled in quilting class at City College of San Francisco. Through March 1 in the African American Center at the Main Library.

Related Program: Talk and demonstration on African American quilt-making his- tory. 2–4 p.m., Feb, 3 in the Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room at the Main Library.

Adult Progam Schedule:

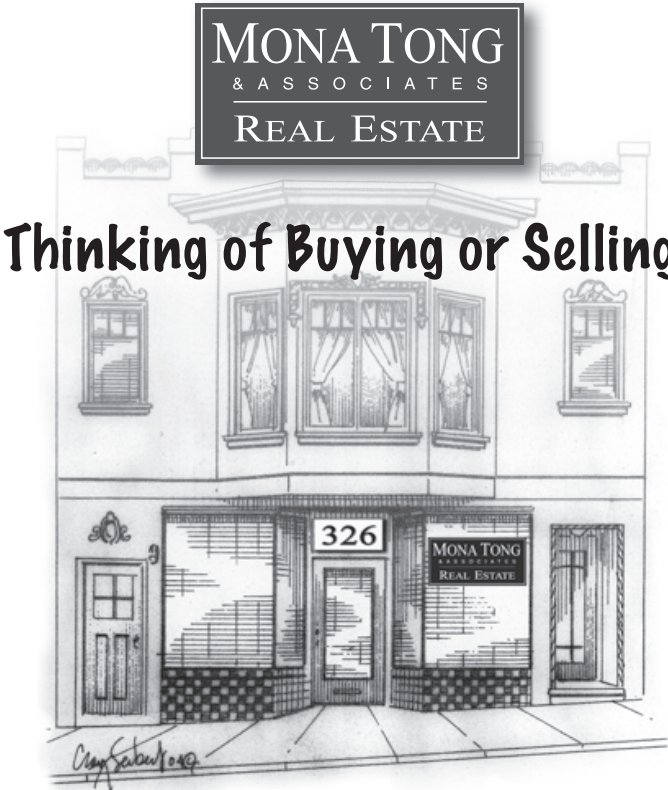
Kicking off Black History Month is the second annual **Spoken Word Festival** held from 1–5 p.m. on Feb. 3 in the Main Library’s Koret Auditorium. The festival will cel- ebrate African American history through the verbal words of black poets and spoken word griots and feature local spoken word artists, including Marvin X, Shakeel Ali, Larry Ukali Johnson-Redd, Terry Moore, Tony Moses, Jacqueline Annette Sue, Lo- retta LaRue Duncan Fowler and others. Poet Eric Goines will emcee the event, which is sponsored by the Conversations on Africa Forum and the Library’s African Ameri- can Center.

On Feb. 10, poet, novelist, professor and current California Poet Laureate **Al Young** will read from his large body of work and discuss his career at 1 p.m. in the Koret Au- ditorium at the Main Library. This will be Young’s first San Francisco appearance since being named California’s poet laureate on May 12, 2005.

Local jazz musician **Wayne Wallace** will discuss the history of jazz in the Americas on Feb. 21. His lecture is a precursor to this year’s fourth annual San Francisco In- ternational Arts Festival, which will be celebrating the African Diaspora. The event starts at 6 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library.

Please call for the **Children’s Program Schedule**.

All programs at the Library are free and open to the public. For more information, call (415) 557-4277. ■



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- o \$250 Neighborhood Center Advocate
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- o \$1000 Neighborhood Center Sponsor
- o \$5 Seniors/Low-income Membership

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Name of employer

- o I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.
- o I am interested in learning about Planned Giving opportunities.
- o I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave.
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

Return to: Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue,
SF, CA 94110.



Positions Available

Fiesta Coordinator—Paid position: Part-time March thru November; Working with BHNC staff, the Fiesta Coordinator oversees all operational aspects of this major fundraiser/street fair including volunteer solicitation and management, Fiesta committees coordination, vendor solicitation and management, liaison with local merchants, liaison with city agencies including Police, DPW, DPT, DPH, securing all required permits, necessary equipment rental, in-kind donations solicitation, publicity and outreach, and day-of-Fiesta logistics. Hours are spread out from March through early November, but are heavier closer to the 10/21 event. Competitive compensation depending on experience.

Outreach Coordinator—Volunteer position: Working with the Fiesta Coordinator to help getting the word out around town about Fiesta. Involves organizing and working with other volunteers to put up posters in merchant windows in commercial districts around S.F., distributing Fiesta postcards at public events in the month prior to Fiesta, and other activities to assure that we continue to have large crowds at our wonderful street fair.

Volunteer Coordinator—Volunteer position: Working with Fiesta Coordinator and BHNC's volunteer coordinator to help in recruiting, scheduling, and training the 150+ volunteers necessary to assure Fiesta remains one of the smoothest run and most fun street fairs in S.F. While there are many returning volunteers, new volunteers need to be recruited. Requires a high level of organization, patience, persistence, and desire to meet and work with people to help them feel valued for the work they do, assuring that everyone at Fiesta has a fun and safe experience.

Compensation for volunteer positions: Great (not just good) karma for helping build our community.

Contact Steve Shapiro @ 206-2140 x161, sshapiro@bhnc.org

Sunday, October 21, 2007 ☆ Cortland Avenue

A LETTER FROM TOM AMMIANO

My office has undertaken a successful collaborative effort between the Mayor’s Office, the SFPD, the Housing Authority, DPT, DPW, SAFE, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and some very dedicated community leaders to build resident capacity and bring needed city resources to the Alemany housing development. Together, we intend to replicate this model of cooperation in the Bernal Dwellings. Capacity building amongst residents is important because when the community of a Housing Authority development voices their concerns as a group it is much easier for the City to identify problems clearly, and therefore, easier to leverage City resources for the benefit of the residents.

As many of you know, merchants on Cortland Avenue have experienced an unusually high number of armed robberies recently and I want to assure residents of Bernal Heights that my office is working with Captain Chignell of Ingleside Station to see that the City is responding with any and all available resources.

Since the recent spate of robberies began Captain Chignell has put additional beat cops on Cortland, noticeably stepped up vehicle patrols, and deployed undercover officers in the area. I wish to thank Captain Chignell and his officers for their continuing and diligent efforts to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice. As far as home robberies go, according to Captain Chignell most happen during the work day, and the vast majority are not forced entries, so please remember that just locking your windows and doors can often be an effective deterrent.

I wish to express my thanks to the San Francisco Organizing Project (SFOP) for a meeting I attended that was held at St

I want to assure residents of Bernal Heights that my office is working to see that the City is responding.

Peter’s in early December to discuss issues around reserving time at the new soccer field. In the past, scheduling of the City’s fields has been a contentious topic, but I am confident that with the continued facilitation by SFOP, community and City government leaders will reach an accommodation that satisfies all parties involved. Also, on January 17th, SFOP held an important forum to discuss what the city is doing in terms of youth employment through various programs. As a result, I have called for an across the board performance audit of all youth employment programs, in all departments, currently funded with City money to make sure that the City’s resources are being put to good use.

On the education front, my office has been working closely with School District Superintendent Gwen Chan to find a way to keep the environment around SF’s public schools as clean as possible. Since hygienic conditions around our public schools has been an issue in the past at other schools, we are hopeful that the resolution we are working toward, with the help of the DPW and the School District, will serve as a model for upkeep in the vicinity of other schools in District 9 and throughout the City.

As a long time advocate of openness in government, I am happy to announce that after working on this project for over a year, we have successfully wired the Board of Education (BOE) meeting rooms so that now parents can watch BOE meetings live on SFGTV along with other official city meetings. I hope that this innovation helps to bring more parents into the ongoing dialogue regarding our public schools.

Last, I encourage any and all District 9 residents who have an interest in participating in public utility oversight to apply for a seat on the Public Utility Commission’s (PUC) Citizen Advisory Committee. The application can be downloaded from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors section of the city’s web site (www.sfgov.org) and should be submitted to the Clerk upon completion. ■

COVER STORY
BHNC Membership

continued from page 1

ment called “Mission Street Community Vision” and in 2006, an application to the City for capital funding to improve transportation efficiency and pedestrian safety on Mission St. In 2006, we supported the request of Alemany public housing residents to have \$300,000 from the City budget directed to social programs there. And as you will read elsewhere in the NBJ, we continue organizing neighbors to address public safety concerns throughout Bernal.


We also organize activities that are fun for the entire community to build our community such as the Hillwide Garage Sale in August and Fiesta on the Hill in October. We also sponsor a Community Congress in May which is an opportunity for Bernal residents to discuss and plan how to address issues that matter to our community. Also at Congress, BHNC members elect our Board of Directors through our voting membership.

Our annual membership drive is just now starting. For those of you who are not yet members, please join with your neighbors who are already members to support our great work. For our continuing members, please renew your membership today. You can always use the membership coupon in this copy of the NBJ. BHNC is a unique organization in San Francisco and in the country. We can only continue to play this essential role with your support.

And, as always, our doors are open to all of you. Stop by and we’ll be happy to show you around! ■

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REMEMBRANCES



David Ayoob
1953-2006

Local businessperson and community builder David Ayoob died of a sudden heart attack on November 26, 2006. David was the senior partner of Four Star Video on Cortland Avenue. His presence in the store and on the street was unmissable. Greeting all passers-by heartily, he deepened the neighborhood's long-standing reputation as a place of friendliness and inclusion. David approached small business as a way to build community. He guided friends, family and colleagues through good times and bad. As a philanthropist, volunteer and Co-President of the Cortland Merchants' Association, he set a shining example of what one individual can contribute to society.

From upkeep of Cortland Avenue's trees and sidewalks, to raising money for local schools, David's generosity was as famous as his flamboyant sense of style. In honor of his civic commitment, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adjourned a meeting in David's name the week after his passing. His memorial service, held at St. Kevin's Church on December 9, was

packed with neighbors and friends who felt that they had lost a great source of positivity in their lives. Deepening our sadness, David's domestic partner, Leo Laxamana, passed away six days after David's death, followed then by his mother, Norma Ayoob, who passed away on December 31, 2006. For years, David had served as the active caretaker for both. He is survived by his two lovely daughters, Kelly and Julie. His business partners, Jeremy Lin and Jamie Atherton, have kept Four Star Video open with David's positive spirit in mind. Plans for personal monuments on the hill and a springtime potluck in David's honor are underway thanks to the Cortland Merchants' Association, which is now presided over by Heartfelt shop owner Darcy Lee.

Donations in David Ayoob's name can be made to the American Heart Association (<https://donate.americanheart.org>) or to the Horizons Foundation, a charity supporting the Bay Area gay, lesbian and transgender communities (<http://www.horizonsfoundation.org>).

A MAN OF OUR COMMUNITY

David Ayoob Remembered

David unique
in jaunty hats
bright jackets
snappy shirts

His "How are you?"
and bountiful smile
when he'd spot you
choosing films at Four Star

On many fronts he led the way,
this fan of Bernal Heights' main drag,
ever-changing
Cortland Ave.

David, nurturing as Earth,
endured with
impeccable grace
personal loss and sorrow

Hard, hard to believe
so kind a man,
still young
has gone

I imagine him now
sparkly above
hovering
on energetic wings

Organizing
extravaganzas
for other hard worked
angels

Enticing them
to break out
in sky high
laughter

—Ellen Frank, San Francisco

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COVER STORY
Public Safety

continued from page 1

Whereas Supervisor Ammiano and Alemany residents had already been successful at securing \$300,000 for violence prevention programs at Alemany (including case management, job training, drug awareness and connection to treatment, etc.), this effort resulted first in the commitment of \$90,000 to increase police presence at Alemany for at least 3 months. Since the prevention programs will track vulnerable residents into productive, supportive programs, and the increased police presence will increase police responsiveness even to calls from Bernal outside Alemany, this is a stunning example of leaders from public housing working together with their neighbors to increase public safety for our entire community!

The format of the meeting on January 17 was, therefore, set up as a forum for community leaders from each issue area, Josh Kaminker from Elsie St, Marc Lindsell and Darcy Lee from the Cortland Merchants Association, and Deb McDONald, Tanya Beck and John Perry from the Alemany area, to present what the issues have been, what successes have happened so far, and what is still left to be done.

Supervisor Ammiano and Ingleside Police Captain Paul Chignell led off the panel's responses. The panel also consisted of Commander Steven Tacchini, Angela Calvillo (Ammiano's staff), Adam Gubser (DPT), Linda Klee (District Attorney's Office), Tim Larsen (SF Housing Authority), Andrea Bruss (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services), and Lenore Anderson (Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice). Mike Farrah, Mayor Newsom's Senior Policy Advisor, and a new Bernal res-

ident, was present in the crowd. Each of the members of the panel has been working hard on behalf of our community and their work has resulted in a great deal of positive and substantive response to the issues at the focus of the meeting. After the panel responded to the presentations, we facilitated a question and answer session between the audience and the panel.

The issues raised which are moving forward toward further action are the following:

- 1 The Ingleside Police District is the largest District in the City, but it is chronically understaffed. The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors need to support more Officers for the Ingleside District.
- 2 There needs to be more positive intervention with the youth at Alemany and those hanging out in front of the Bernal Library to track them into constructive programs and opportunities. BHNC will work with Ammiano's office to identify funding to add capacity in this area, and will continue to work with Alemany leaders to coordinate services for Alemany.
- 3 The Bernal Rec Center needs to be part of the solution. Currently, it provides no programming for at-risk youth. BHNC will work with the Mayor's and Ammiano's offices to identify funding and to coordinate services to take place at the Rec Center.



Angela Calvillo, Adam Gubser, Barbara Schulthers, Linda Klee, and Lenore Anderson leading the January 17 panel

- 4 The criminal activity emanating from 263 Andover St must be abated. SFPD and the City Attorney's Office will coordinate to address this issue.
- 5 Captain Chignell has ordered regular police presence on Cortland Ave in the evening hours through to 2am at which time all businesses are closed. This has made a tremendous impact on reducing the armed robberies. There was a request to make this presence permanent, and not to have it reduce the beat cops on Mission St south of Cesar Chavez.
- 6 Make the increased police presence at Alemany permanent and make available a Safety and Services Space where Ingleside Officers can have a desk and phone.
- 7 Have DPT install a stop sign at the top of Ellsworth St to stop cars from speeding over the crest of the hill, or propose an alternative that is acceptable to the residents of Alemany and Ellsworth Streets and to the Ingleside Officers who have requested a stop sign at this location.

[BHNC] has worked for 30 years to address the root causes of poverty, racism, gender bias, sexual preference and class bias.

As this list of demands indicates, public safety is a complex issue involving all-important human services to prevent criminal activity, and of course law enforcement when crime does occur.

As BHNC volunteer, Buck Bagot, states, "BHNC is about empowering low income and minority residents, and all of the folks who live in Bernal Heights. The organization is not about jailing and eviction. It has worked for 30 years to address the root causes of poverty, racism, gender bias, sexual preference and class bias. It will continue to do so. Put simply, BHNC believes that it IS discriminatory for residents of public housing to live in fear, and receive a lower level of policing and criminal justice service than more affluent residents. It also believes that no resident of Bernal should live in fear of violent crime, impacting them and their families. It is with both of these goals in mind—ending violence and addressing the root causes of that violence—that it has initiated these violence abatement efforts."

For more information, please call Joseph Smooke at BHNC at 206.2140, ext 157, and register with <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BernalSafe>. ■



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